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REYNOLDS, J. B., editor. *Civic bibliography for greater New York*. (New York: Charities Publication Committee. 1911. Pp. 296. \$1.50.)

A guide for students and investigators of social conditions.

LA SERVE, P. DE. *Mably et les physiocrates*. (Poitiers: Société Française d'Imprimerie et de Librairie. 1911. Pp. vi, 163.)

STRYK, G. *Wilhelm von Humboldts Aesthetik als Versuch einer Neubegründung der Sozialwissenschaft*. (Berlin: Puttkammer & Mühlbrecht. 1911. Pp. 129. 3.20 m.)

WILSON, R. K. *The province of the state*. (London: King. 1911. Pp. 310. 7s. 6d.)

Economic History and Geography

A Documentary History of American Industrial Society. Volumes IX and X, *Labor Movement, 1860-1880*. Edited by J. R. COMMONS and J. B. ANDREWS. (Cleveland: A. H. Clark Company. 1911. Pp. 378, 370. \$50 for set of ten volumes.)

With the appearance of volume X the publication of *A Documentary History of American Industrial Society* is brought to a successful conclusion. The work has proceeded with commendable promptness since the inception of the undertaking and less than two years have elapsed since the appearance of the first volume. The last two volumes contain documents that illustrate the history of the labor movement between 1860 and 1880, though some still later tendencies are suggested in the introduction, which is signed by both editors.

The period covered is aptly characterized by the editors as the "middleman-period," during which the dominating figure in the industrial world becomes the merchant-jobber, who acts as agent between the scattered manufacturers and producers on the one hand and the large manufacturers, wholesalers, and retailers on the other. This development is caused by the rapid railway building and the consequent extension of the market and the separation of producers. Even the business of furnishing transportation is invaded by the middleman, who buys it at wholesale from disconnected railways and sells it to unorganized producers. The growth of credit and of "intangible" capital—goodwill, etc.—strengthened the power of the middlemen, and made them appear a menace to the small producers. Farmers and laborers alike therefore sought to control the agencies of capital and credit by means of which they saw themselves being exploited. One way

by which they thought to do this was through the greenback movement. Considerable space is given in the editor's introduction to an estimate of this movement, and a suggestive comparison with contemporary European radicalism is made, but no documents are presented in connection with these points.

More important in the history of the labor movement of this period was the organization and growth of the National Labor Unions from 1866 to 1872, and to these most space is given in the collection of documents. Little has ever been written about these remarkable national gatherings, in which were discussed the foremost labor problems of the day. Strikes, co-operation, hours of labor, and finally greenbackism were given leading places on the program. In 1870 it was decided to organize an independent political party, and soon thereafter the National Labor Union was wrecked on the rocks of politics and industrial depression. Such a national organization was in fact premature, for the separate trades had not yet been amalgamated, only four national unions existing in 1860. The Knights of Labor, originally organized in 1869 for educational and moral objects, again drew the wage-earners together, especially after 1877, but failed to achieve the results hoped for by its members. The organization lost its power and finally remained, in the striking phrase of the editors, only "a bushwhacking annoyance on the heels of its successor, the American Federation of Labor." Comparatively little space is allotted to material illustrative of this organization.

Not only are the various phases of the labor movement clearly set forth in their relations to one another, as greenbackism, agrarianism, and shorter hours; but their connection with contemporaneous movements in Europe is described—all are considered parts of a general movement springing from western civilization. Thus greenbackism in the United States corresponded to socialism in Europe; the Marxism of the older country took the form of a movement for shorter hours in this. Of all the reforms mooted at the various labor congresses that of a reduction of hours became the most important. The consideration of this problem in the volume under review is made to centre round the work and writings of Ira Steward, who is said by the editors to have formulated "what may be called the first philosophy springing from the American labor movement. The importance of Steward's contribution, in giving shape and justification to American labor's

most characteristic demand, cannot be overestimated and has not been fully recognized." An interesting comparison of Steward's theories with those of Marx and George brings out the theoretical bearings of the eight-hour movement. This is the only section of the documents which is furnished with a separate introduction.

One of the valuable features of the last volume is an account of the farmers' organizations and their assignment to a proper place in the labor movement of this period. The editors have throughout the series given a broad interpretation to the phrase "industrial society," and have properly emphasized the importance of the public domain and of other features of the economic environment in the United States. Fully half of the last volume is given up to a list of sources and of places where they can be found, and to an exhaustive analytical index.

Now that the series has been completed, and it is possible to estimate the work as a whole, only the highest praise can be given the editors for the scholarly and able fashion in which they have performed their task; criticism of minor features must give way at this point. The result is a noteworthy collection of most valuable documents, which fully justifies the large expenditure of time and money involved in their publication; many of these must soon have been completely lost but for their timely rescue and preservation in this form by Professor Commons and his co-editors. Some of them deal, indeed, with phases of our industrial development which had been completely forgotten, as the National Trades Union movement of 1834-1836. But not merely has this material been preserved to future students; it has also been interpreted in masterly fashion. The broad movements of social change, which have been so generally neglected by historians, are here treated with a firm grasp, and their relations to one another and to other phases of our national development clearly indicated. The last eight volumes form a distinctly unified work, describing the labor movement from 1806 to 1880; only the first two volumes stand somewhat apart from the rest of the series, dealing as they do with the development of the South. Much of the work done may be called definitive, but along many other lines new problems are opened up which will call for much patient research and skilful presentation.

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